

Hot-spot surge

COVID-19 prompts drastic measures in some states as death tolls set records.

Details on Page A3



Associated Press

Protecting victims

Missouri governor signs bill providing multiple protections for victims of sexual assault.

Details on Page B1



Associated Press

Hawley seeks probe

U.S. senator urges Barr to launch investigation into St. Louis prosecutor for abuse of power.

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WYKERT TRIAL CONCLUDES | Judge announces guilty verdict on two charges



Clayton Anderson | News-Press NOW

Kenneth Wykert is handcuffed Thursday after being convicted of involuntary manslaughter at the conclusion of his trial in the death of Leah Dawson.

GUILTY VERDICT

Judge convicts Wykert of involuntary manslaughter

By CLAYTON ANDERSON
News-Press NOW



To watch the full interview with Leah Dawson's family, visit www.newspressnow.com/multimedia

A Nodaway County judge convicted Kenneth Wykert of involuntary manslaughter and abandonment of a corpse Thursday morning, concluding the case of Leah Dawson's death.

Wykert, originally charged with second-degree murder, did not testify. Judge Roger Prokes told

the court that charge wasn't proven. He said testimony from Wykert's former cellmate was compelling. That man testified that Wykert told him he killed Dawson, but it was an accident.

"After deliberation and reviewing all the evidence, the charges of second-degree murder was not proven. In order to have a

Please see **WYKERT/Page A3**



Clayton Anderson | News-Press NOW

Leah Dawson's mother, Tonya Eldredge, and stepfather, Travis Eldredge, said the trial was very emotional.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Up in the air

Decision on St. Joseph School District reopening still remains undecided

By MARCUS CLEM
News-Press NOW

Education leaders said on Thursday that a plan remains in the works to get the St. Joseph School District reopened for in-person classes this fall.

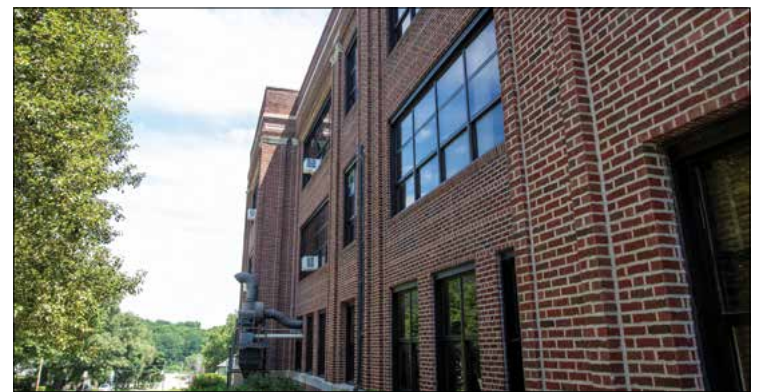
An announcement event is anticipated next week in which Dr. Doug Van Zyl, superintendent of schools, and his assistants will be on hand to talk about the complete plan. Citing daily changes in regional trends with COVID-19, a spokesperson for the district said no finalized information will be published in advance of the announcement. An event date and time will be announced later, the spokesperson said.

"I can tell you that thinking of every scenario is next to impossible. This is a very fluid plan, meaning that it could change day to day."

— TAMI PASLEY,
President of SJSD Board of Education

Tami Pasley, president of the district's board of education, said she has taken note of how

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Marcus Clem | News-Press NOW

Lafayette High School, like all other St. Joseph School District properties, is currently closed to everyone except 12-month employees and those with specific appointments, so as to reduce person-to-person contacts.

For up-to-date info on area and national coronavirus pandemic, please visit: newspressnow.com/coronavirus.



File photo | News-Press NOW

Council Member Madison Davis dons a mask at a recent City Council meeting. Davis does not believe masks should be required in the city, but also is concerned about the lack of public access to work sessions where emergency orders have been discussed.

St. Joseph mask order continues unchanged

By BRENDAN WELCH
News-Press NOW

A requirement to wear face coverings inside of larger retail stores in St. Joseph has been controversial among City Council members, but will go on without modification for now.

Last week, Mayor Bill McMurray enacted an emergency order that obliges shoppers to wear a mask inside of retail stores of 10,000 square feet or

more for 60 days. This item was a compromise due to council members and citizens alike being torn on the issue of mandated masks.

Thursday, the council met for its weekly COVID-19 discussion via Zoom and, while they ultimately decided not to change the order, the members still were in disagreement.

Council Member P.J. Kovac said businesses have been reaching out to him with concerns about the mandate,

and he expressed worry over whether the compromise order discriminates against the larger stores and causes customers to go to smaller shops where masks aren't required.

Council Member Kent O'Dell, who said he came up with the compromise order with Mayor Bill McMurray, said those businesses will have to "suck it up" in order to focus on public health. He said

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COVID-19 PANDEMIC BY REGION

Numbers listed below reflect the latest data collected as of 10:00 p.m. Thursday

REGION	CASES	DEATHS
Buchanan Co.	958	6
Missouri	30,422	1,113
Kansas*	20,933	299
United States	3,574,371	138,339
Worldwide	13,765,713	589,192

SOURCES: John Hopkins University (Worldwide) — <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> (United States) — <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map> (Buchanan County) — Buchanan County (Missouri) — Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (*Kansas) — Kansas Department of Health and Environment. *The state has ended its daily reports and will release numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for its COVID-19 cases.



To view national and worldwide maps of confirmed COVID-19 cases, please visit www.newspressnow.com/multimedia

NCAA announces COVID guidelines

The nations governing body for college sports released its latest guidance to help schools navigate competition during the coronavirus pandemic. Details Page A8



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MAIN NUMBER
816-271-8500



TODAY

HIGH: 93° | LOW: 77°

Expect partly sunny skies with hazy and hot conditions. Heat index expected to be around 105. Details on Page A2

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Business A5
Sports A8

Comics B5
Debate A4
Obituaries B2

